

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 27 without prejudice.

Amend the claims as noted below by the markings.

Claims 1 – 17 (Cancelled)

18.(Currently Amended) A method for printing a carrier material, comprising the steps of:
rotating a printing drum having a plurality of depressions for accepting printing fluid arranged on a surface of the printing drum around its longitudinal axis during a printing event;
introducing a predetermined quantity of a printing fluid by an inking station into depressions moving past the inking station;
employing the printing fluid from some of the depressions moving past a transfer printing location at said transfer printing station for printing the carrier material, and the printing fluid remaining in the rest of the depressions;
removing the printing fluid by a cleaning station from depressions by moving the depressions past the cleaning station; and
operating the cleaning station and the inking station simultaneously during the printing event.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the cleaning station contains a cleaning drum that lies parallel to the printing drum and whose surface touches the surface of the printing drum in a cleaning region during cleaning; and
the surface of the cleaning drum is manufactured of an elastic or absorbent material.

20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of:
providing an electrical potential on the cleaning drum that differs from a potential on the surface of the printing drum.

21. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein the cleaning station contains a stripper drum that lies parallel to the cleaning drum and whose surface exerts pressure onto the surface of the cleaning drum in a stripping region; and the surface of the stripper drum is fabricated of a hard material.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of:
cleaning emptied depressions with a cleaning fluid after the removal of the printing fluid from depressions moving past the cleaning station and before the introduction of printing fluid into depressions moving past the inking station.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein the cleaning station contains a cleaning container with a cleaning fluid; and further comprising the step of: immersing the depressions moving past the cleaning container into the cleaning fluid.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said container with a cleaning fluid is arranged under the printing drum.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of:
utilizing the printing fluid as the cleaning fluid.

26.(Currently Amended) A method according to claim 23, further comprising the step of:
utilizing ultrasound as an additional measure ~~measures~~ to remove the cleaning fluid.

Claim 27 (Cancelled)

28. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of:

directing a stream of air to displace printing fluid out of the depressions moving past the cleaning station.

29. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said cleaning station contains a blower unit to generate said stream of air.

30. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of: drawing in a stream of air at the cleaning station to entrain printing fluid from the depressions moving past the cleaning station.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the steps of: :
collecting the printing fluid removed with by the cleaning station; and
conducting the collected printing fluid to the inking station.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of:
cleaning the printing fluid.

33. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 31, further comprising the step of
rejuvenating the printing fluid.

34. (Currently Amended) A printer device for printing a carrier material, comprising:
a printing drum rotating around its longitudinal axis during the printing event and on whose surface a plurality of depressions for the acceptance of printing fluid are arranged;
an inking station for introducing a predetermined quantity of printing fluid into depressions that move past the inking station;

a transfer printing station at which printing fluid from some of the depressions moving past the transfer printing location is employed for printing the carrier material, and at which the printing fluid remains in the rest of the depressions moving past the transfer printing station;

a cleaning station for removing printing fluid from depressions that move past the cleaning station; and

a control unit for actuation of the cleaning station, the control unit simultaneously places the cleaning station and the inking station into operation during the printing event.

35. (Previously Presented) A printer device according to claim 34, further comprising:
a cleansing station for cleansing the depressions emptied in the cleaning station with a cleaning fluid.

36. (Withdrawn) A printer device according to claim 34, wherein the cleaning station includes a cleaning drum that lies parallel to the printing drum and whose surface touches a surface of the printing drum in a cleaning region; and further comprising:
a connection for applying an electrical potential to surface of the cleaning drum which differs from a potential at the surface of the printing drum.

37.(Currently Amended) A printer device for printing a carrier material, comprising:
a printing drum rotating around its longitudinal axis during the printing event and on whose surface a plurality of depressions for the acceptance of printing fluid are arranged;
an inking station for introducing printing fluid into depressions that move past the inking station;
a transfer printing station at which printing fluid from some of the depressions moving past the transfer printing location is employed for printing the carrier material, and at which the printing fluid remains in the rest of the depressions moving past the transfer printing station;

a cleaning station for removing printing fluid from depressions that move past the cleaning station;
a control unit for actuation of the cleaning station, the control unit simultaneously places the cleaning station and the inking station into operation during the printing event;
wherein the cleaning station includes a cleaning drum that lies parallel to the printing drum and whose surface touches a surface of the printing drum in a cleaning region;
a connection for applying an electrical potential to surface of the cleaning drum which differs from a potential at the surface of the printing drum; according to claim 36,
wherein the cleaning station includes a stripper drum that lies parallel to the cleaning drum and whose surface presses onto the surface of the cleaning drum in a stripping region.

38. (Withdrawn) A printer device according to claims 34, wherein the cleaning station includes a blower unit with whose assistance air is blown into the depressions moving past the cleaning station.

39. (Withdrawn) A printer device as claimed in claim 34, wherein the cleaning station includes a suction unit with whose assistance air is sucked out of the depressions moving past the cleaning station.